



NAME AND ADDRESS

## NOTICE OF NITRATE ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARD – Sample #18-210-27

This notice is to inform you the water sample collected by the Juneau County Land and Water Resources Department and Juneau County Health Department from the well located at <WELL ADDRESS> contained <**NITRATE CONCENTRATION**> milligrams per liter (mg/L) of nitrate-nitrogen. Your water sample exceeded the drinking water standard for nitrate-nitrogen of 10 mg/L. Infants less than 6 months of age and pregnant women should not drink this water or drink formula made from this water. It is recommended that all other persons avoid long-term consumption of water with a nitrate-nitrogen concentration above 10 mg/L.

### What else should I know?

The elevated nitrate level indicates that your well water is being impacted by one or more of the following sources: nitrogen fertilizers (agricultural or lawn), manure or other bio-solids spread on fields, septic system(s), livestock yard. If you suspect the source of the nitrate is agricultural fertilizers, you may also consider testing for agricultural pesticides. Nitrate concentrations can fluctuate; as a result you may want to consider testing for nitrate seasonally to understand how levels may vary throughout the year.

### What are effective options to avoid drinking water with elevated levels of nitrate?

Water treatment can be effective at reducing nitrate levels. Examples of treatment devices effective for nitrate removal include: reverse osmosis, distillation or anion exchange systems. If you invest in water treatment be sure to ask the dealer to see a letter of product approval from the state which ensures the device is effective for removal of nitrate at the level found in your water system. Note that routine maintenance is required and regular testing may be the only way to ensure the device is functioning properly. Bottled water is an option, particularly for infants and/or pregnant women who are most at risk. Do not boil your water to reduce nitrate; this only serves to increase the concentration. Reconstructing or drilling a new well may result in lower nitrate, but this there is no guarantee that it will result in better water quality.

### Should I be concerned about using this water for other purposes?

No, water with elevated levels of nitrate is only a health concern for drinking purposes. If elevated nitrate is the only concern, you do not have to be concerned about using the water for other activities such as bathing or washing dishes. Most water treatment devices installed to reduce nitrate levels are point-of-use devices, meaning that they are only used to treat water for drinking and cooking.

### What about the rest of my water test results?

In the event there are any infants or pregnant women in the home, we wanted to notify you as soon as possible. The rest of your results take longer for us to analyze. We will mail your complete set of results in the coming weeks.

The enclosed brochure "Nitrate in Drinking Water" gives more information on this topic. If you have any questions at all about this information please call Kevin Masarik, UW-Extension Water Quality Specialist at 715-346-4276. Questions about the Juneau County sampling efforts can be directed to Matt Komiskey at 608-847-7221 x 114.